

**RECORDS OF THE PAST: BEING
ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF THE
ASSYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN
MONUMENTS, VOL. II, EGYPTIAN
TEXTS**

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Records of the past: being English translations of the Assyrian and Egyptian monuments, Vol. II, Egyptian texts by Various

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MONUMENTS, VOL.
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RECORDS OF THE PAST.

VOL. II.

EGYPTIAN TEXTS.

NOTE.

Every Text here given is either now translated for the *first time*, or has been specially revised by the Author to the date of this publication.

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P R E F A C E.



THE second volume of the "RECORDS OF THE PAST" contains a translation of some of the principal Egyptian texts in the hieroglyphic and hieratic character. Although the interpretation of the Egyptian has been pursued for nearly half a century, and the progress made has been quite satisfactory, so that the nature and tenor of all inscriptions and texts are made out, some difficulties still lie in the way about certain points, and some difference of opinion prevails about the meaning of a few words or their exact equivalents in transcribing them into modern letters. These however are comparatively few, and the different transcriptions are not greater than those found in the works of scholars who have translated or written works upon modern Oriental languages. It is indeed to be regretted that one uniform mode of spelling or transcribing the same word in Oriental languages, has not been adopted by scholars, but notwithstanding the proposal of different universal systems for this

purpose, none has hitherto been adopted. The state in which all ancient documents have come down to the present day is that of mutilation, more or less severe, according to the dangers to which they have been exposed. On monuments engraved on stone it is sometimes greater than on the more fragile materials, such as papyrus or leather used for the purposes of writing. Although it is possible to supply the smaller lacunæ by conjectures, more or less happy, of the obvious meaning, some monuments have lost so much of their text that the attempt to restore it would be misleading the general inquirer. Each translator uses his judgment in this respect, and restorations of texts like those of injured sculpture must be accepted for what they are worth. In the present work they are inserted between brackets, to distinguish them from passages which exist in the originals but the meaning of which is doubtful, which are given in italics. Besides the difficulties already mentioned there are others in Egyptian texts, such as an occasional and startling change of the personal pronoun, and an abrupt transition of tense. These were probably flights of fine writing, according to the Egyptian standard of taste, but have not the same merit at the present day. On the whole there is little idiom